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[10537/105]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s)

Alexander SAGEL et al.

Serial No.

To Be Assigned

Filed

Herewith

For

WEAR-RESISTANT LAYER

Examiner

To Be Assigned

Art Unit

To Be Assigned

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND 37 C.F.R. § 1.125 SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION STATEMENT

SIR:

Kindly amend the above-captioned application before examination, as set forth below.

IN THE SPECIFICATION AND ABSTRACT:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(3), a Substitute Specification (including the Abstract, but without claims) accompanies this response. It is respectfully requested that the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) be entered to replace the Specification of record.

IN THE CLAIMS:

On the first page of the claims, first line, change "Patent Claims" to --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 1 to 16 in the underlying PCT application. Please also cancel, without prejudice, claims 1 to 15 in the annex to the International Preliminary Examination Report.